



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Flax and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Mayor Streeter noted a number of events in June that he will be unable to attend, and he asked Councilors to volunteer to attend to represent the Town.

Town Manager Oefinger re-distributed two referrals from the RTM under Public Communications. The consensus of the Council was to discuss these items under Other Business.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes was considered after 2011-0004 Pending Litigation.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

2011-0115 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting April 26, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Watson, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Flax and Councilor Sheets

6. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0084 High School Water Infiltration Issues

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that the members of the Committee of the Whole, along with the Town Manager, Director of Public Works, and the Town Attorney go into executive session at 7:12 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation concerning water infiltration issues at Fitch High School.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

2011-0004 Pending Litigation (2011 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Watson, that the members of the Committee of the Whole, along with the Town Manager, Director of Public Works, and the Town Attorney go into executive session at 7:38 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation concerning damage to the Water Pollution Control Facility as a result of screen failures.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:46 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Flax and Councilor Sheets

2003-0198 Public Water & Sewer on Flanders Road/Industrial area

Discussed

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, noted that Fuss & O'Neill was asked to look at the most critical segment of a proposed water and sewer line extension on Flanders Road - crossing I-95 to meet state and federal criteria -- using available funds to do preliminary engineering work. Agreements are expected to be signed in the next three weeks.

The Town Manager explained that this project may not need final engineering to go to the voters. It is a fairly expensive project and the Council must decide if it should be taken to the voters. He emphasized that if the Council endorses the project for referendum, Councilors must be willing to actively advocate for the project.

Discussion followed on details of the project. Mr. Schneider noted that the Town owned land to the north of I-95 is not developable.

The Town Manager indicated he would provide a copy of the Flanders Road study to Councilors Peruzzotti and Johnson. O'Beirne expressed support for not doing the final engineering before the referendum. He questioned the availability of grants to help with the project and noted that it does not benefit many residents, only the industrial area. Councilor Peruzzotti supports exploring the I-95 crossing and feels it is time to look at these types of options to help relieve the tax burden over time.

2011-0116 National Liberty Memorial to African Americans of the Revolutionary War

Recommended for a Resolution

Town Manager Oefinger noted the request for a resolution in support of a memorial to African Americans who served during the Revolutionary War. Mayor Streeter contacted Paul Duarte and asked him to put something together so that the resolution could be personalized for Groton. The consensus of the Committee was to proceed with a resolution and include the information from Mr. Duarte if he provides it.

2011-0081 FYE 2012 Proposed Budget Deliberations

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

Town Manager Oefinger explained that although the budget has been adopted by the RTM, he would propose waiting until June 7th to set the mill rates in the hope of receiving more

information on the state budget. He distributed a draft memo from the Director of Finance outlining the proposed mill rates. Councilors had no additional discussion on the budget.

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

2010-0172 FYE 2012 Budget

Recommended for Deletion

2010-0249 FYE 2012 Groton Long Point Highway Budget

Recommended for Deletion

2010-0250 FYE 2012 City of Groton Highway Budget

Recommended for Deletion

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study

Recommended for Deletion

2006-0282 School Improvement Project - Phase II

Recommended for Deletion

2010-0199 Interlocal Agreement with Durham to Provide Property Tax Relief for Emergency Services Volunteers

Discussed

The Committee asked that this item be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.

2011-0012 Power Outages in Noank

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger indicated that it appears CL&P has addressed the issues and he has not heard anything additional from Noank residents.

2011-0066 Montville Request Regarding Pending Legislation

Discussed

The Town Manager stated he would check on the status of this legislation and Montville's request.

2010-0104 City of Groton Highway and Police Vehicle Auction Proceeds

The Town Manager and Mayor will discuss this issue with Mayor Galbraith.

2009-0166 Townwide Police Assessment

The Town Manager and Mayor will discuss this issue with Mayor Galbraith.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager explained that if the Town Council is interested in discussing the issues raised by the RTM, the Council can make referrals. With respect to employee benefits, any change would have to be negotiated with the unions. Councilor Peruzzotti noted that benefits were discussed during the Council budget sessions and the Mayor noted that permit fees have been discussed with the Director of Public Works. The Town Manager reviewed possible responses to the RTM.

Mayor Streeter stated that the Council will be conscious of the RTM referrals during labor negotiations. Councilor Kolnaski suggested that the Town Manager report to the RTM on the Council's behalf.

Councilor Watson asked for an update on Thomas Road and Mardie Lane at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councilor Johnson noted a Sister Cities Committee meeting on Thursday, May 26th where speakers will address how to get international business into the region.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.